

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Department of State

WP file

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CONFIDENTIAL

Action

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NO: 2916, May 26, 8 p.m.

Austrian Foreign Office displayed considerable concern and reluctance re proposed Kirsten refugee hearings (DEPTEL 3400), fearing, as Department anticipated, repercussions vis-a-vis Soviets. Minister Schoener, after discussion with Figl, recognized that Austrian Government not in position to protest project in view US occupation status, but provided Embassy advance notice of its intention to maintain complete disassociation. Also added that Austrian Government would not permit Austrian nationals to participate and would insist that all activities be carried out in US occupied premises. Schoener said that Kirsten as member of Congress would be welcome, but hoped that site of interviews could be changed to Munich or some other location outside Austria. Foreign Office fears that, despite closed nature of hearings, leaks would occur with consequent embarrassment for Austrian Government.

We share concern of Foreign Office but believe that, if committee adheres strictly in Austria to conditions outlined reference telegram, hearings could be conducted without undue repercussions.

YOST

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